



# News Release

## **WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Challenge Academy Presentations Slated**

Representatives of the Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy will explain the institution's mission and methods in presentations at three area high schools next Wednesday, March 10.

The Challenge Academy offers at-risk youths the opportunity to change the direction of their lives. The program is for male and female applicants between 16 years, 9 months and 18 years old, who have dropped out of high school or through truancy have fallen more than one year behind in credits. It consists of 22 weeks at Fort McCoy in a highly structured environment, followed by one year in the cadet's home community working with a local mentor nominated by the cadet.

Each cadet participates in the academy's eight core components: academic instruction leading to Wisconsin's High School Equivalency Degree (HSED); job skills training; physical fitness; health, hygiene and nutrition; leading and following; life-coping skills; responsible citizenship; and community service.

The informational presentations in Rock County are for prospective applicants, their parents, area high school guidance counselors or directors of pupil services/attendance, area Health and Social Services personnel, and juvenile justice officers and workers.

They will be held on Wednesday at Beloit Memorial high school at 9:30 a.m., Beloit Turner high school at 11:30, and Clinton high school at 3:00 p.m. Each school's guidance office will direct attendees to the place in the school where the informational meeting is to be held.

Besides official representatives of the Challenge Academy, recent academy graduates and their parents will attend and share their experiences.

The academy's next class begins July 22, 2004. Applicants must not be on parole or probation for other than juvenile-status offenses, awaiting sentencing, under indictment, or charged with or convicted of a felony. They must be drug-free when they enter the program. Cadets attend voluntarily; the academy is not open to placement by court order.

For further information on the presentations, contact Ron Hartman, guidance counselor, at Clinton high school, (608) 676-2223, ext. 2144.

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